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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 10  
**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY  
Gail Chasey

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE  
TO IMPLEMENT AND DESIGN EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FEMALE  
POPULATION IN THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Senate Joint Memorial 48 passed by  
the 2002 legislature, the corrections department developed a  
task force to examine issues relating to female inmates and  
their increasing incarceration and recidivism rates; and

WHEREAS, the task force was directed to review  
classification policies and procedures; the use of  
administrative segregation; policies and procedures for  
protecting female inmates from sexual assault and harassment;  
adequacy of medical and mental health services; and policies  
and procedures concerning parole and discharge planning for  
female inmates; and

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1           WHEREAS, the task force found that women are profoundly  
2 different from men in the criminal justice arena and have  
3 different pathways to crime that result from childhood and  
4 adult abuse, trauma, mental health issues and severe substance  
5 abuse; and

6           WHEREAS, the task force found that women have different  
7 offense patterns from men, different life and family  
8 circumstances, different learning and communication styles and  
9 different needs and strengths and thus require different  
10 services, treatment and environments for their rehabilitation;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, national research shows that women in  
13 correctional facilities have fewer major misconduct reports  
14 than men and that misconduct by women is generally much less  
15 serious than misconduct by men; and

16           WHEREAS, the task force found that sexual misconduct by  
17 correctional staff is a significant and hidden problem in  
18 female correctional facilities and requires further evaluation  
19 in New Mexico; and

20           WHEREAS, the task force found great potential for  
21 improvement in the treatment and rehabilitation of women  
22 inmates if New Mexico embraces the national research on the  
23 differences between female and male inmates and implements the  
24 national guidelines for gender-responsive facilities and  
25 services; and

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1           WHEREAS, the task force resolved to take immediate and  
2 long-term actions to address its findings on how to more  
3 effectively rehabilitate women inmates and respond to issues  
4 specific to women in the corrections system; and

5           WHEREAS, many of the actions proposed by the task force  
6 have not been implemented and the environment, programs,  
7 policies and procedures at the women's correctional facility in  
8 Grants and at the Camino Nuevo correctional center continue to  
9 be based on the male corrections model;

10           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of corrections assemble  
12 a task force consisting of the warden of the New Mexico women's  
13 correctional facility in Grants, the warden of the Camino Nuevo  
14 correctional center, representatives from the corrections  
15 corporation of America, correctional medical services, the  
16 adult probation and parole division of the corrections  
17 department, the children, youth and families department, the  
18 New Mexico women's justice project, the commission on the  
19 status of women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe, the judiciary,  
20 central New Mexico community college, a rape crisis center, the  
21 second judicial district attorney's office, community  
22 practitioners in behavioral health and substance abuse  
23 treatment, former women inmates who have completed their  
24 sentences, including any probation or parole, and other  
25 interested and appropriate parties to implement the

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1 recommendations of the Senate Joint Memorial 48 task force; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force review the  
3 environment, programs, services, policies and procedures at the  
4 two female correctional facilities, including intake,  
5 classification, screening and assessment, discharge planning,  
6 vocational skill development, mental health, behavioral health  
7 and substance abuse services, interpersonal violence and  
8 trauma, parenting and family connections, visitation, gender-  
9 informed training protocols, staff training, sexual misconduct  
10 and compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of  
11 2003; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force implement the  
13 recommendations of the national institute of corrections and  
14 work with a representative of the institute, if feasible; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force encourage  
16 community collaborations and partnerships to create innovative  
17 and unique solutions for the female inmate population and to  
18 improve the readiness of women to reintegrate back into their  
19 communities; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force  
21 report to the appropriate interim legislative committee during  
22 the 2008 interim on the progress of the task force; the  
23 implementation of recommendations made by the 2002 Senate Joint  
24 Memorial 48 task force and of the national guidelines for  
25 gender-responsive facilities and services; and any further

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1 findings, recommendations and solutions that may be effective  
2 for the female prison population; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the warden of the  
5 women's correctional facility in Grants, the warden of the  
6 Camino Nuevo correctional center, the corrections corporation  
7 of America, the secretary of children, youth and families, the  
8 administrative office of the courts, the second judicial  
9 district attorney, the New Mexico women's justice project, the  
10 commission on the status of women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe  
11 and central New Mexico community college.

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